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FOREST SERVICE

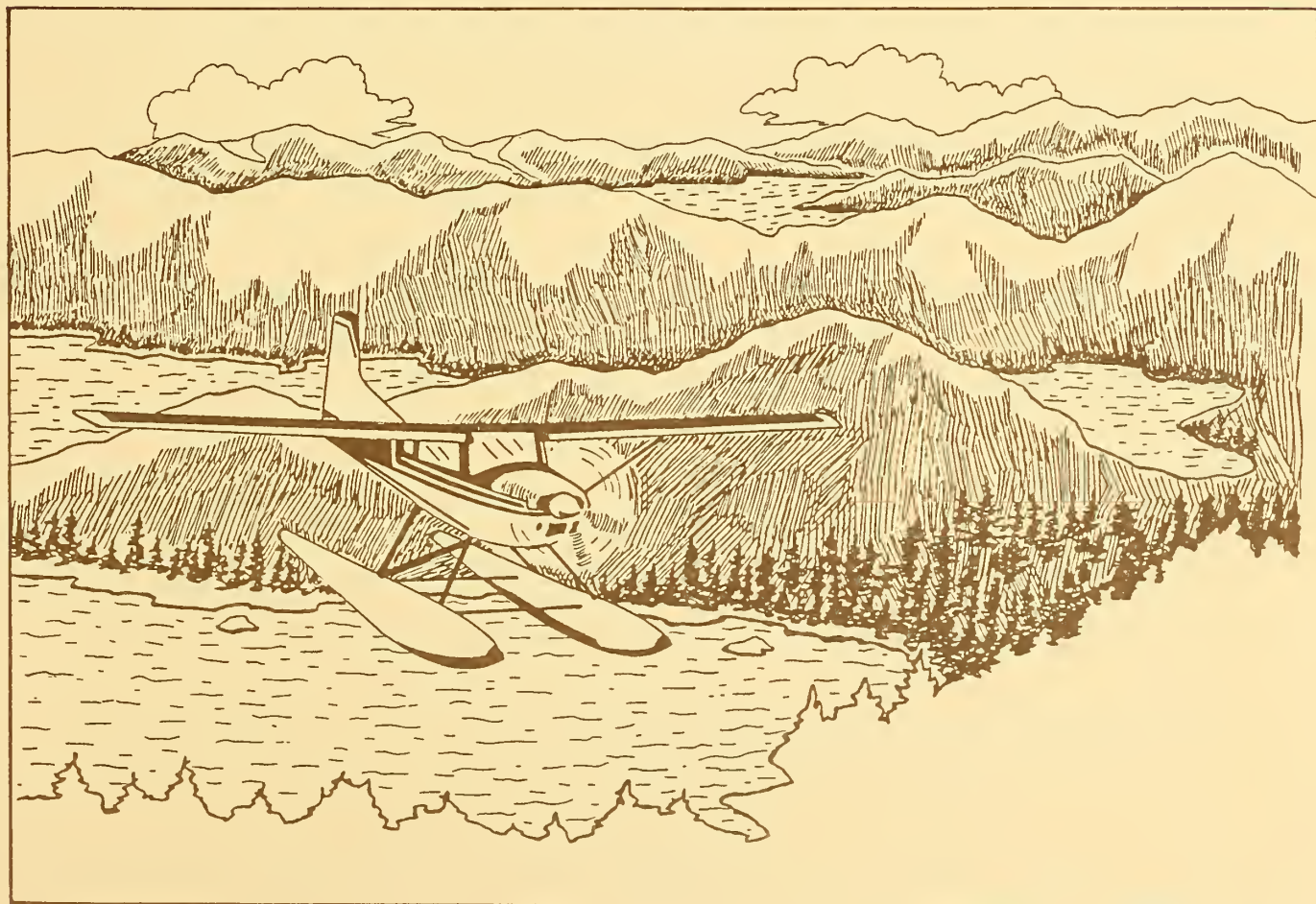
Chugach
National
Forest
R10-MB-163

December 1991



CHUGACH LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT PROPOSAL SCOPING INFORMATION

CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Chugach
National
Forest

201 E. 9th Ave.
Suite 206
Anchorage, AK 99501

Reply to: 1950

Date: December 9, 1991

Dear Participant:

The Chugach National Forest is initiating a planning process to examine management direction in the current Chugach Land Management Plan for Prince William Sound and the Copper Delta in light of events following the March 24, 1989 oil spill at Bligh Reef. As a result of the oil spill, public demand for resource outputs from the forest may have changed. I hope you will choose to actively participate in this planning process. Enclosed with this letter is a scoping document, which provides more detail on the proposal.

Your name is on our current public involvement mailing list, and I thank you for your past participation with the Forest Service's land management planning activities.

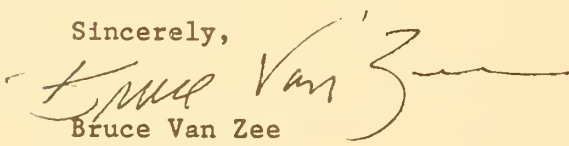
You may be asking, why is the Forest Service inviting me to become involved with this planning process? As a participant, you can contribute valuable information concerning issues and suggest alternatives that we may be overlooking. Plus, your comments at an early stage will assist in collecting the appropriate data, analyze information, and respond to concerns in a timely manner. At the conclusion of the scoping period we will redefine issues currently being considered, and generate alternatives that address those issues. I invite you to take the time to review the enclosure and provide us your thoughts.

We would like your written comments by January 31, 1992 to address your concerns. We will accept your comments after January 31, 1992, however, the earlier comments are received in the process the greater their potential effect. If you would rather, feel free to visit our office or telephone the Interdisciplinary planning team leader, Gary Lehnhausen in Anchorage, at (907) 271-2560.

Please use the public comment form enclosed to provide us with your comments and to indicate whether you wish to continue to receive our mailings. These mailings will keep you updated on our planning progress for Prince William Sound and the Copper River Delta. You do not have to use the response form provided, you may send us your comments in a personal letter or give us a call, if you prefer.

Thank you again, and we look forward to working with you. Your contribution early in the process can make a difference.

Sincerely,


Bruce Van Zee
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures

CHUGACH LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Please use this form or a similar format to provide us with your comments on future management of Prince William Sound and the Copper River Delta.

Name: _____ Date: _____
(please print)

Do we have your correct address? ____ YES ____ NO. If not please provide it below.

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

If you did not receive this document in the mail, you are not on our mailing list for this project. If you would like to be included in future mailings, please print your address above. If you officially represent any group, institution, or organization please also list that group's name.

DO YOU WISH TO RECEIVE FUTURE MAILINGS ABOUT THIS PROJECT?
____ YES ____ NO.

If yes, we will maintain you on our project mailing list. If we do not hear from you, you may be dropped from the list.

This response form is designed to help make it easier for you to prepare your comments for us. You do not have to use this form - feel free to send a personal letter or give us a call, if you prefer.

We are eager to hear all points of view. Your comments will help us determine the scope of the issues we need to consider in this planning process. This process is not a vote. You may be the only person to express a certain good idea. Your personal knowledge of an issue or area may strongly influence a final decision.

We are looking forward to your comments.

SCENIC QUALITY - What areas should be managed to emphasize scenic resources?

- * We want to know how you would like to see this portion of the Chugach managed for scenic quality.
- * We are also very interested to know which specific areas you think should be emphasized for scenic quality and why.

RECREATION - What areas should be managed to emphasize recreation opportunities?

- * We want to know how you would like to see this portion of the Chugach managed for recreation opportunities.
- * We are also very interested to know which specific areas you think should be emphasized for recreation opportunities and why.

FISH HABITAT - What methods should be used to protect resident and anadromous fish habitat?

- * We want to know how you would like to see this portion of the Chugach managed for fish habitat.
- * We are also very interested to know which specific streams and drainages should be managed to maintain natural conditions and where restoration of fish habitat or enhancement activities are appropriate, if any, and why.

WILDLIFE HABITAT - How do we manage Prince William Sound and the Copper River Delta to conserve the diversity of biological resources that are dependent on naturally functioning ecosystems while addressing the needs of people?

- * We want to know how you would like to see this area managed for old-growth and undeveloped habitat and what kinds of restoration or enhancement activities are appropriate, if any.

- * We are also very interested to know which areas you think should be emphasized for old-growth and undeveloped habitat and where enhancement or restoration activities are appropriate and why.

SUBSISTENCE - What should the Forest Service do to continue providing subsistence opportunities?

- * We want to know how you would like to see this area managed for subsistence.
- * We are also very interested to know which specific areas you think should be emphasized for subsistence, why and what access should be provided, if any.

WILDERNESS - In order to emphasize or protect unique resource values, should any new areas be recommended to Congress as Special-Designation Areas and should there be any changes in the recommended Nellie Juan-College Fiord wilderness area?

- * We want to know how you would like to see this area managed for wilderness and other kinds of special emphasis.
- * We are also very interested to know which specific areas you think should be emphasized for wilderness or some other Special-Designation and why.

MINERALS - What areas and accessibility should be emphasized for exploration, development and production of mineral resources?

- * We want to know how you would like to see this portion of the Chugach managed for minerals.
- * We are also very interested to know which specific areas you think should be emphasized for minerals and why.

TIMBER HARVESTING - What areas of Prince William Sound and the Copper River Delta should be managed to emphasize timber harvesting?

- * We want to know how you would like to see this portion of the Chugach managed for timber harvesting.
- * We are also very interested to know which specific areas you think should be emphasized for timber harvesting and why.

How well did we cover the issues?

Please take a few minutes to let us know if you have a concern that wasn't covered in the issues. Feel free to make any other comments you would like about the materials you have received, or any aspect of Forest planning or management.

We will accept your comments at any time during the planning process. However, in order to ensure that your comments can be used to help determine the scope of our analysis we need your comments by January 31, 1992. If we receive your comments after that date they may still be useful to us in later stages of the planning process.

Please submit your comments to:

Chugach National Forest
201 East 9th Avenue
Suite 206
Anchorage, AK 99501
Attn: Gary Lehnhausen
(907) 271-2560

COMMENTS

Attach additional sheets if needed. Please fold, staple and stamp. Thank you for your time.

Return Address

Place
Stamp
Here

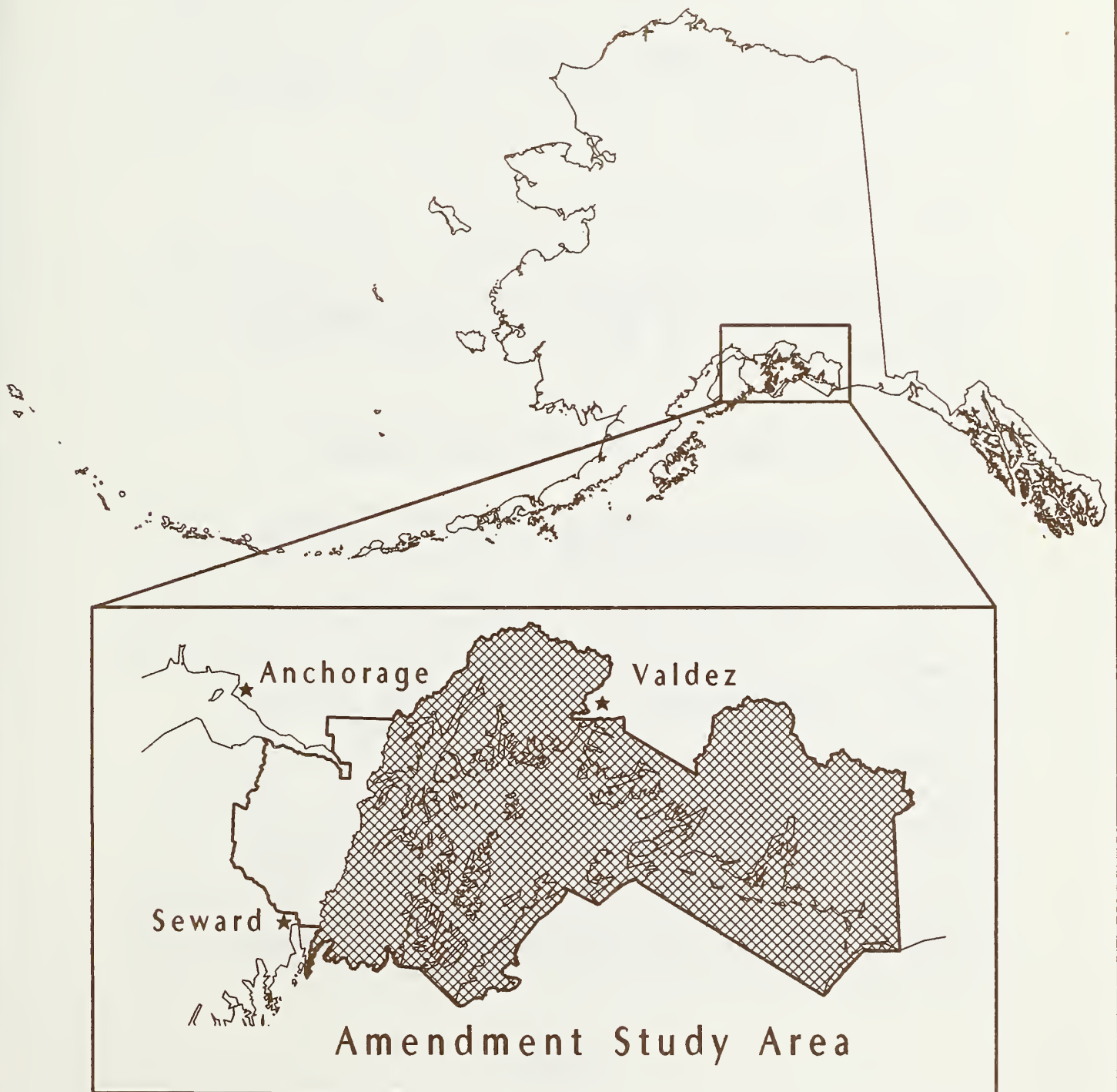
Chugach National Forest
201 E. 9th Avenue, Suite 206
Anchorage, AK 99501

ATTN: Gary Lehnhausen - Forest Planning Team Leader

Additional Comments:

Vicinity Map

Forest Plan Amendment Area Chugach National Forest



Plan Amendment Of The Chugach National Forest Land And Resource Management Plan For Prince William Sound And The Copper River Delta Scoping Information

The intent of this document is to seek public input to the proposed Plan amendment of the Chugach Land and Resource Management Plan (CLMP). It also includes some information about the current management emphasis within the analysis area. We invite you to read it and send us your thoughts and comments. The issues, concerns and opportunities identified by the public will help us determine the appropriate scope of our analysis.

Where is the Analysis Area?

The proposed analysis area includes all land and water within the exterior boundaries of Management Areas 5-9, as designated in the Chugach Land Management Plan. These include the Nellie Juan, College Fiord, Gravina, Big Islands and Copper River Management Areas.

What is the purpose of the Plan Amendment?

The primary purpose and need for this amendment process is to re-examine the management direction in the current Chugach Land Management Plan's five Management Areas affected by the March 24, 1989 oil spill at Bligh Reef. In response to that event, hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent in clean-up and millions more in assessment. As a result, Prince William Sound has gained National attention. Initial comments indicate that public demand for resource outputs from the Forest may have changed. Future management of the Sound and the Copper River Delta could also benefit from the application of a "New Perspectives" approach by addressing the ecosystems for the sustainability of all their values and uses. New Perspectives was formed by the Forest Service to help management in the 1990 Resource Planning Act (RPA) Program and new Forest Plans. This direction is in response to new scientific knowledge about how ecosystems function and the changing values of the American people about how their forests should be managed.

The Plan's management direction must also take into account the increased importance of these resources to the American public and must guide potential oil spill restoration needs.

This potential amendment to the Plan will be programmatic in nature. To remain consistent with the programmatic nature of the current Plan, it will not deal with site-specific project level management direction.

The specific objectives for amending the Plan are to provide management direction for the Sound and the Delta that would provide for:

- * long term maintenance and productivity of healthy, biologically diverse ecosystems, through the use of "New Perspectives" management principals
- * guidance of restoration activities for any resource damaged by the March 24, 1989 oil spill
- * habitat conditions that will maintain minimum viable populations of all native and desirable introduced species well-distributed through the project area
- * protection of objects of ecological, cultural, geological, historical, prehistorical and scientific interest
- * continued opportunities for subsistence uses
- * continued protection of wilderness qualities within the identified Nellie Juan-College Fiord "Wilderness Study" area.
- * continued opportunities for sport and commercial fisheries
- * opportunities for scientific research, interpretation and environmental education
- * outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities consistent with the purposes of the unit

- * continued opportunities for resource development and utilization as appropriate
- * a cooperative and coordinated ecosystem management approach which is considerate of the goals of the State of Alaska, regional and village Native corporations and other Federal agencies which manage resources within Prince William Sound and the Copper River Delta

What kinds of decisions will be made?

The Forest Supervisor will be making the following decisions based on the environmental analysis:

- * What changes need to be made in current Forest Plan direction for Management Areas 5-9 to supply goods and services which are responsive to society's needs today while being considerate of the current land and resource management goals of other land owners and resource managers within the Sound and Delta.

What options were considered to determine what changes need to be made in current Forest Plan direction?

The options that were considered for making an informed decision and to involve the public are: revision of the Forest Plan; proceed with Management Area Analysis for the Nellie Juan, College Fiord, Gravina and Copper River Management Areas, and review the completed Big Islands Management Area Analysis as needed; and initiation of an amendment of the Chugach Land Management Plan for Management Areas 5-9.

Amendment of the Forest Plan was selected for a number of reasons. Revision of the entire Forest Plan would include management areas 1-4 which include the road Corridor, East Side, Crescent Lake and the Resurrection Pass areas of the Kenai Peninsula. These areas were not directly affected by the 1989 oil spill. The Kenai Peninsula area of the forest is a distinctly different ecological system than Prince William Sound and the Copper River Delta and they are separated geographically by the Kenai Mountains. Because of this it is appropriate to consider only Management Areas 5-9 at this time.

Proceeding with a series of Management Area Analysis could result in large, continuous tracts of natural habitat becoming increasingly fragmented and isolated by a network of developed lands. Also, interested publics view Prince William Sound and the Copper River Delta in their entirety, rather than a group of individual units. Forest planning done on a landscape scale will minimize the chances of habitat fragmentation as land management direction is implemented.

For these reasons, Forest Supervisor, Bruce Van Zee selected amendment of the Forest Plan as the appropriate process to review existing management direction for Prince William Sound and the Copper River Delta.

An expectation for this amendment process is that the requirements for Management Area Analyses for the area addressed by the amendment would be satisfied and thus would eliminate the need for separated Management Area Analyses. This is to be accomplished through public involvement and identification of management alternatives that are acceptable to the participants of the settlement agreement.

How does this analysis relate to the current Chugach Land Management Plan:

The proposed Chugach Land Management Plan amendment analysis area includes all land and water within the exterior boundaries of Management Areas 5-9 as designated in the Chugach Land Management Plan. Shown below is a breakdown of the project area to be considered and present management direction from the Chugach Land Management Plan.

Management Area	Present Management Emphasis
5 Nellie Juan	Conserve wildlife and fish habitat. Maintain dispersed recreation opportunities. Maintain landscape character. Recommend Wilderness Designation. Timber harvest goal: no timber



Forest Plan Amendment Study Area

Chugach National Forest

Draft

Whittier

Valdez

Prince William Sound

Cordova

Copper River

LEGEND

- National Forest
- Other Ownership
- Lands Selected for Conveyance
- Recommended Wilderness within Amendment Study Area
- Recommended Wilderness outside Amendment Study Area
- Wilderness Study Area Boundary
- Management Area Boundary

0 10 20 30 40 MILES

harvest is identified in the timber harvest schedule located in Plan Amendment #1 (Settlement Agreement).

THIS MANAGMENT AREA MUST BE MANAGED TO PROTECT ITS SUITABILITY FOR WILDERNESS DESIGNATION UNTIL CONGRESS REMOVES THE "WILDERNESS STUDY" DESIGNATIION IDENTIFIED IN ANILCA.

6 College Fiord

Increase developed recreation opportunities.

Enhance marine oriented recreation opportunities.

Provide unroaded recreation opportunitites.

Maintain landscape character.

Recommend wilderness designation for portions of the management area.

Maintain wildlife habitat.

Improve fish habitat.

Timber harvest goal: no timber harvest is identified in the timber harvest schedule located in Forest Plan amendment #1.

THIS MANAGEMENT AREA MUST BE MANAGED TO PROTECT ITS SUITABILITY FOR WILDERNESS DESIGNATION UNTIL CONGRESS REMOVES THE "WILDERNESS STUDY" DESIGNATION IDENTIFIED IN ANILCA.

7 Gravina

Improve marine oriented recreation opportunities.

Maintain wildlife habitat.

Improve fish habitat.

Timber harvest goal: Harvest an average of 2.0 MMBF annually for 10 years (Forest Plan Amendment #1)

8 Big Islands

Increase developed and dispersed recreation opportunities

Maintain landscape character.

Enhance marine oriented recreation opportunities.

Maintain wildlife habitat

Improve fish habitat

Timber harvest goal: Harvest an average of 3.6 MMBF annually for 10 years (Forest Plan Amendment #1)

9 Copper River

Conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitat shall be the primary purpose as required by Section 501(b) of ANILCA.

Maintain and increase dispersed and developed recreation opportunities.

Maintain landscape character.

Timber harvest goal: Harvest an average of .25 MMBF annually for 10 years (Forest Plan Amendment #1)

What issues are already being considered?

In the 1984 Chugach Land Management Plan, three major issues were addressed: Wilderness recommendations, effects of land ownership changes on the forest, and allocation of forest goods and services and standards and guidelines. The Allocation issue was divided into twelve categories reflecting national forest resources and Forest Service programs. These categories include: recreation opportunities and facilities, visual resources, cultural resources, wildlife and fish habitat, research natural areas, timber management activities, water, soil and watershed management, fire management, forest health, special use permits, transportation systems and utility corridors. These same issues continue today. Of particular concern now, as then in the Prince William Sound and Copper River Delta ecosystems are the amount and location of land allocated to scenic and recreation values, fish and wildlife habitat, commercial timber harvesting, and mineral exploration and development.

Listed below are tentative issues that we feel need to be addressed in this amendment proposal. Management of Prince William Sound and the Copper River Delta is likely to be of concern to many people such as the recreationist, outfitter guides, commercial fisherman, subsistence users, and timber purchasers. The job of the Forest Service as the managing agency for Prince William Sound and the Copper River Delta is to balance the wants and needs of all diverse groups. These issues will probably be expanded and refined following the scoping process.

The issues presented below are in the form of questions. An overview of each issue is presented followed by issue analysis criteria. The issue analysis criteria will be used by the decision maker to determine the degree to which each alternative responds to the issues. There is not likely to be one management approach that is fully responsive to all issues.

**Issue 1. What areas should be managed to emphasize
 scenic resources?**

Overview:

The Prince William Sound and Copper River Delta ecosystems are a unique combination of land and marine environments. Combinations of vegetation patterns, rugged mountains, fresh and salt water, glaciers and snow fields create a landscape of high scenic value. Areas in and around Prince William Sound itself receive use with a strong salt water orientation. With its rugged ice-covered mountains as a backdrop, the Sound is a landscape of vast proportions and high contrast. The Copper River Delta area, near the town of Cordova is noted for its wildlife values, but is no less rich in scenic quality. The vast expanse of marsh land traversed by meandering streams and backed by rugged mountains results in outstanding scenic quality. This world-class scenery, resulting from the unique interaction of mountain and ocean environments, draws thousands of visitors each year. Visitors view this landscape from cruise ships, privately owned boats, small aircraft and by vehicle from the Copper River Highway. Tourism has become a major industry in Southcentral Alaska. Maintaining the scenic quality of the Forest landscape is of concern to Forest visitors, individuals, groups, businesses and communities.

Issue Analysis Criteria:

1. The degree to which each alternative maintains the high quality visual resources that currently exist.

**Issue 2. What areas should be managed to emphasize
 recreation opportunities?**

Overview:

Because of its proximity to Anchorage and because of the wide variety of recreational opportunities that exist there, the project area is one of Alaska's favorite playgrounds. Although relatively close to Anchorage, much of the area is not accessible by roads or trails. Visitors and residents alike recognize the unique recreation experience afforded by a lack of roads and the necessity of boat access.

Issue Analysis Criteria:

1. The degree to which non-motorized recreation use or capacity is affected.
2. The degree to which motorized recreation use or capacity is affected.
3. The degree to which developed recreation use or capacity is affected.

Issue 3. What methods should be used to protect resident and anadromous fish habitat?

Overview:

Prince William Sound and the Copper River Delta have long been significant producers of wild salmon in Alaska. These salmon stocks, along with other fish species, support a diverse, economically important, and culturally significant fisheries. As witnessed by the near extinction of salmon stocks in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and California, the fish stocks in Prince William Sound and the Copper River Delta are not immune to depletion. Depletion of genetic diversity is the first step towards the loss of fish numbers; occurring slowly, almost imperceptibly, due to the cumulative impacts of numerous perturbations (e.g., timbering, hydropower development, fishing, introduction of disease through stocking, etc...) Streamside habitat provides important shelter, hiding places, food, and rearing areas for Alaska's fish. Furthermore, changes in streamside habitat can alter instream habitat and hence affect a stream's ability to produce fish.

Issue Analysis Criteria:

1. The number of acres and length of streamside buffer and instream habitat affected.
2. The degree to which water quality is affected.
3. The degree to which fishing use days are affected.

Issue 4. How do we manage Prince William Sound and the Copper River Delta to conserve the diversity of biological resources that are dependent on naturally functioning ecosystems while addressing the needs of people?

Overview:

The Prince William Sound and Copper River Delta ecosystems, comprising some 4.7 million acres, supports a wide variety of wildlife and plant species. It has one of the largest breeding populations of grizzly bears and bald eagles and the only breeding population of Dusky Canada geese in the world. The area provides habitat to an abundance of marine mammals and seabird colonies. Many of the species are "forest interior species" which require large blocks of undeveloped habitat to maintain viable, genetically diverse populations. Alaskans and visitors find subsistence and sport hunting of moose, caribou, mountain goat, Dall's sheep, grizzly and black bear. Many species of furbearers, waterfowl, upland game birds and game also provide the public with sport, commercial and subsistence opportunities. Demand is also growing for opportunities to watch and photograph wildlife.

Problems of scale and how to contend with the multiple arrays of temporal and spatial scales affecting ecological processes are central to this issue and to this entire planning effort. Analysis on the landscape level allows us to examine the "big picture" of pattern and process. Landscapes are an important spatial scale for addressing biological diversity. Landscape scales range from thousands to millions of acres. At all scales an overriding theme of this Amendment and resultant management philosophy is "maintaining future options".

Issue Analysis Criteria:

1. To what degree may proposed actions affect population viability of all native and desired non-native species, especially those sensitive to habitat fragmentation and/or human disturbance?
2. What degree of protection, restoration and renewal of rare, unique and highly productive communities of plants and animals will be provided?
3. To what degree will the capability of wildlife habitats to sustain human purposes be affected?
4. To what degree will wildlife viewing opportunities be affected?
5. What amount of old-growth and undeveloped habitat will be protected for wildlife and how is it distributed across the project area?

Issue 5. What should the Forest Service do to continue providing -subsistence opportunities?

Overview:

For some people, subsistence is hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering natural resources to provide needed food which is supplemental to their income. For others, especially Southcentral Alaska's Native Americans, subsistence is much more than collecting food: it is a lifestyle that preserves cultural customs and traditions, reflecting deeply-held attitudes, values and beliefs. Because many industries in Alaska are seasonal and cyclical in nature, subsistence resources are important to many Southcentral Alaskans.

Issue Analysis Criteria:

1. What is the likelihood that proposed activities "may" affect the availability of subsistence resource use opportunities?
2. To what degree would each alternative result in a significant restriction or shift in subsistence use patterns?

Issue 6. In order to emphasize or protect unique resource values, should any new areas be recommended to Congress as Special-Designation Areas and should there be any changes in the recommended Nellie Juan-College Fiord wilderness area?

Overview:

One of the major unresolved issues identified in the 1984 Chugach Land Management Plan is the recommendation for wilderness designations which have not been provided to Congress for action. Some organizations and individuals see Wilderness designation in Alaska as the Nation's last opportunity to preserve large tracts of lands that are relatively untouched by human activity. To these individuals and organizations a Congressionally designated "Special-Designation Area" is the only long term guarantee that there would be no future major development in these areas. Special-Designations are generally used to focus forest management direction to emphasize or protect unique resource values. Management direction is usually more restrictive in these areas than on other forest lands. Some Special-Designations such as Wilderness areas, National Recreation areas and National Monuments can only be authorized by Congress.

Other kinds of Special Areas can be administratively designated by the Regional Forester or the Secretary of Agriculture. Stressing Alaska's storehouse of minerals and timber, others feel that resource development should be permitted and that any "Special-Designation" would only "lock-up" valuable resource development opportunities.

The 1980 Alaska Lands Act (Section 704) identified the Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area (calculated during development of the Forest Plan to be 2,116,000 acres) to be reviewed by the Secretary of Agriculture to determine the suitability or non-suitability for preservation as wilderness. Until Congress has acted on the wilderness recommendation identified in the "Wilderness Final Environmental Impact Statement", (1,703,000 acres) Forest Plan direction is to manage the entire Study area so as to maintain its presently existing wilderness character. Once Congress acts on the wilderness designation of the Study Area, under current Forest Plan direction those areas not put into a wilderness classification will be managed for other resource values.

Issue Analysis Criteria:

1. What degree of protection or emphasis is provided to areas of outstanding outdoor recreation, scenic, scientific and historic values?
2. What degree of management emphasis is provided for the unique resource values of the area?
3. To what degree are the values of wild and scenic rivers protected or emphasized?
4. What degree of protection or emphasis is provided to the wilderness values of the area?

Issue 7. What areas and accessibility should be emphasized for exploration, development and production of mineral and energy resources?

Overview:

The Chugach National Forest contains immense mineral resources. Minerals that occur on the Forest range from precious metals to chemical grade minerals. Mining and mineral exploration are not new to Southcentral Alaska. In fact, mining activities have occurred for over one hundred years. Today, along with new explorations, many historical mineral deposits are being revisited. This renewed interest in mining could, directly or indirectly, employ many people in Southcentral Alaska.

Issue Analysis Criteria:

1. What is the minerals development potential provided?
2. To what extent can other resource values be protected during minerals development activities?
3. What amount of commodity values can be produced through minerals development?

Issue 8. What areas of the Chugach should be managed to emphasize timber harvesting?

Overview:

Forest Plan Amendment Number 4 is the Record of Decision for the Big Islands Management Area Final Environmental Impact Statement dated July 17, 1989. The Decision provided authorization for the Chugach Alaska Corporation to construct a temporary road between MacLeod Harbor and Patton Bay on Montague Island. Timber harvest activities beyond the road corridor are not authorized in the Big Islands project area. To authorize additional timber harvest in other areas of the Forest would require completion of additional Management Area Analyses or this proposed Plan amendment.

Although the current amended Forest Plan would allow for the harvest of 6.3 MMBF annually, actual harvest has averaged about 1-2 MMBF annually. Since 1984 some 157,700 acres of National Forest land have been conveyed to the State of Alaska and various Native Corporations. Many of these lands were the better timber production lands. The Chugach Alaska Corporation constructed a modern mill in Seward, however due to financial difficulties the mill has recently suspended operations. The future demand for timber resources and associated affects on local economies are not clear at this time.

Issue Analysis Criteria:

1. What is the annual allowable sale quantity?
2. To what extent can other resource values be protected during timber harvest activities?

How will issues be used?

The issues raised, if identified early in the planning process, are used to guide needed field investigations, resource analysis, alternative development and evaluation, and ultimately the decisions being made.

This process of identifying issues is designed to help guide the planning process, and is not a public vote. We will address all concerns whether that concern is raised by one person or many.

How can I help?

Many people ask themselves, "why should I get involved?" As a public participant, you can contribute valuable information on issues we may be overlooking. You may be more familiar with specific portions of the analysis area than our planning team. So please take a few minutes to send us your thoughts. We appreciate your input and to be most helpful, we would like your comments to be specific and factual concerning this Chugach Land Management Plan Amendment proposal.

To be most effective, your comments should include additional issues and alternatives you think we should consider. Please identify any specific concerns you may have concerning this plan amendment proposal:

* Concerns with the present land management emphasis. Are there specific resource management activities you feel are no longer appropriate within the analysis area? Can you identify specific locations where such activities should not occur?

* Concerns with how a change in management emphasis could affect resources used for subsistence lifestyles within the analysis area. What bays, rivers, or drainages are of most concern to you? Which resources most concern your subsistence lifestyle? What management emphasis changes could the Forest Service make that would improve subsistence resource use opportunities within the analysis area?

* Concerns with broad management emphasis or philosophy within the Prince William Sound and Copper River Delta ecosystems. How might this plan amendment proposal be designed to benefit the resources of the area? What specific areas, resources or actions should be considered in this planning effort?

If you prefer, feel free to visit our office in Anchorage at 201 E. 9th Avenue, Suite 201, or telephone the planning team leader, Gary Lehnhausen at (907) 271-2560. If you think we might have missed someone who is interested in this Chugach Land Management Plan amendment proposal, please share this information with them and ask them to contact us.

Located at the beginning of this document is a public response form that when detached, can be mailed back to our office. Feel free to attach extra sheets, or mark your comments on the analysis area map found at the center of the document. Please send us your comments, so that they arrive by **January 31, 1992**. We will accept your comments at any time during the planning process, but the earlier they are received in the process the greater their potential affect on the final decision.

